UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Most 343-5634

For Release February 16, 1966

SUSQUEHANNA SHAD STUDY PROGRAM EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE OF 1966

An intensive research project to determine if American shad can be re-established in the Susquehanna River system is being extended for an additional six months, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The project, begun in the spring of 1963, was scheduled to terminate in December 1965. A recent meeting of representatives from power companies maintaining dams on the river, State conservation departments of Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania, and Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, determined that the study phase concerning adult shad should continue through one more spawning season.

James T. McBroom, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and chairman of the Susquehanna River shad program's Administrative Committee, said that studies would be continued to obtain additional information on the behavior of adult shad.

"Several adult shad carrying sonic devices that transmit signals to shore receivers, and shad wearing the standard visual tags, have been transplanted in the Susquehanna above the dams," McBroom said. "Some signals were picked up both above and below the point of release by the receiving equipment, but many of the sonic-tagged fish were never 'heard from' again."

The Susquehanna shad research project has two phases. The first determined that shad eggs would hatch in the river and that young shad from these eggs could move downstream through sections of the river polluted by mine acid drainage, and through the dams.

The second phase is to determine whether adult shad will migrate upstream through the impoundments if they are provided a means of bypassing the dams.

"The Conowingo Dam fish trap in Maryland, which was constructed for the study, is being modified, and we intend to transplant a much larger number of tagged fish this spring to get a definite answer to this second question," McBroom added.

The research project has been a cooperative one, with State and Federal agencies providing biologists and equipment. The power companies -- Philadelphia Electric Company, Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Metropolitan Edison Company, and the Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation-volunteered to finance the study which could lead to a Federal Power Commission ruling that fishways be constructed around the four dams involved. The companies have provided nearly \$200,000 for the study.

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